

AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 3-5, 9-17, 19 and 20, without prejudice to the later filing of the claims, and enter the amendments noted below.

PENDING CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule having at least 95% identity with SEQ.ID.NO: 26, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a flea hindgut or Malpighian tubules (HMT) protein capable of eliciting an immune response against at least one epitope of a flea HMT protein ~~expressed by a tissue selected from the group consisting of a flea HMT tissue and a flea HNC tissue, identified by a method comprising: (a) constructing a cDNA library enriched for HMT or HNC expressed sequences; and (b) identifying a nucleic acid molecule in said library.~~

2. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ.ID.NO:26 a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid sequence of Table I and a nucleic acid sequence of Table II.

Claims 3-5 (canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A recombinant molecule comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim 1[3] operatively linked to a transcription control sequence.

7. (Currently amended) A recombinant virus comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim 1[3].

8. (Currently amended) A recombinant cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim 1[3].

Claims 9-17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A composition comprising an excipient and an isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1[3].

Claims 19-20 (Canceled)